

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6857

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 2048

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,IN,US,PK

SUBJECT: PRESS CRITICISM OF REPORTED U.S. ARMS SUPPLY TO  
PAKISTAN CONTINUES

BEGIN SUMMARY: INDIAN MEDIA OBSERVERS FEB. 12 CONTINUED TO  
COMMENT ON THE REPORTED U.S. DECISION TO RESUME ARMS SUPPLY TO  
PAKISTAN BUT NEWS COVERAGE IS DOWN TO NILL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A LEAD EDITORIAL, "ARMS FOR PAKISTAN?" THE CONGRESS PARTY-  
ORIENTED NATIONAL HERALD CALLED DR. KISSINGER "A SLIPPERY DIPLOMAT"  
AND MR. BHUTTO "A SLIPPERY POLITICIAN" AND HELD THEM RESPONSIBLE  
FOR CREATING "AN UNPLEASANT SITUATION" FOR INDIA. IT ASSERTED THAT  
THE "ONLY OBSTACLE" THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IS FACING IN ANNOUNC-  
ING ITS DECISION IS "THE REACTION, IN INDIA, PARTICULARLY THE EFFECT  
ON INDO-U.S. RELATIONS, "BUT THE U.S. WILL "CERTAINLY TRY TO  
CONVINCE" THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT THAT "IT WILL NOT BE CREATING  
PROBLEMS FOR INDIA AND THAT EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH  
THIS COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE."

2. IT FURTHER MAINTAINED THAT LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO WILL NOT  
"PROMOTE WASHINGTON'S GLOBAL INTRESTS" BECAUSE THE U.S. "WILL  
NOT GAIN STRATEGICALLY" AND WILL CREATE "IRRITATIONS" FOR INDIA.  
IT WARNED: "THERE IS A DANGER OF HIS (BHUTTO) TURNING A DICTATOR  
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AND USING THE ARMS...AGAINST HIS OWN COUNTRYMEN WHO ARE RESENTING

HIS OPPRESSIVE TACTICS."

3. KULDIP NAYAR'S EDIT-PAGE "BETWEEN THE LINES" COLUMN IN THE STATESMAN, "INFLUENCING EVENTS IN KASHMIR?" ON NEW DELHI'S SETTLEMENT WITH SHEIKH ABDULLAH OVER KASHMIR AND THE REPORTED U.S. "INCLINATION" TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO TO PAKISTAN SAID: "THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THE USA HAS SEEMINGLY TRIED TO INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENTS IN KASHMIR...AFTER TWO DECADES, WHEN NEW DELHI HAS NOW BEGUN TO FACE FACTS AND THE STATE'S (KASHMIR) POPULAR LEADER, SHEIKH ABDULLAH IS ABOUT TO ASSUME POWER, THE USA IS POSSIBLY AGAIN TRYING TO INFLUENCE EVENTS IN KASHMIR." NAYAR FELT THAT WHATEVER GAINS HAVE BEEN MADE SO FAR THROUGH BILATERAL TALKS "WILL BE LOST AND THE SITUATION WILL BE SUCH THAT EVEN IF THERE IS NO CONFLICT, THERE WILL BE NO SETTLEMENT."

4. NAYAR ADDED THAT "TO CLAIM, AS IS BEING DONE IN WASHINGTON, THAT THE EFFECT OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO WILL BE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND WILL NOT INVOLVE ANY CHANGE IN THE MILITARY SITUATION OVERLOOKS THE HISTORY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE INDEPENDENCE." HE REFERRED TO THE KISSINGER VISIT TO INDIA AND HIS ASSURANCES TO INDIAN LEADERS THAT WASHINGTON "DID NOT ACCEPT THE OLD THEORY OF A BALANCE OF POWER" ANY MORE, AND REGRETTED: "IT IS STRANGE THAT HE SHOULD GO BACK ON ALL THAT IN LESS THAN THREE MONTHS... BUT THEN THE TRAGEDY OF WASHINGTON IS THAT IT IS RULED BY THE PENTAGON... WHICH PREFERS DEPENDABLE ALLIES TO NON-ALIGNED DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES. AND IF UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT RAWALPINDI HAS PROMISED A NAVAL BASE TO THE USA ARE TRUE, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN DR. KISSINGER'S PREDICAMENT."

5. TIMES OF INDIA DELHI RESIDENT EDITOR GIRILAL JAIN IN HIS BYLINER "U.S.A.'S PAKISTAN POLICY," UNDERScoreD THAT THE PERSIAN GULF REGION WITH ITS OIL RESOURCES "OCCUPIES THE FIRST PLACE IN AMERICA'S LIST OF PRIORITIES. AS SUCH, IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT ITS POLICY TOWARD OTHER COUNTRIES AROUND THE AREA LIKE INDIA AND PAKISTAN SHOULD BE SHAPED IN REFERENCE TO THE REQUIREMENT OF ITS INTERESTS THERE." HE, THEREFORE, URGED THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA "TO WORK OUT A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH (TOWARD THE PERSIAN GULF COUNTRIES) AND FIT ITS PAKISTAN'S POLICY IN IT." HE PLEADED THAT INDIA SHOULD RECOGNIZE "THE PROBLEM TO BE WHAT IT IS" AND BEGIN "TO ARTICULATE UNCLASSIFIED

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IT, HOWEVER CAUTIOUSLY."

6. JAIN CONCLUDED: "THIS WOULD DISPLEASE BOTH WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW. BUT A CAREFUL CALCULATED RISK HAS TO BE TAKEN. IN ANY EVENT, NEW DELHI NEEDS TO RE-EXAMINE ITS OWN WORLD VIEW AND BRING IT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GRIM FACT THAT THE DESIGNS OF ONE SUPER-POWER CANNOT BE COUNTERED WITH THE HELP OF THE OTHER." SCHNEIDER

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